

Message Text

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SUBJECT: INITIAL REACTION TO CARTER VICTORY-- SAMPLING OF
LEADING POLITICAL FIGURES

REF: MADRID 8475

1. IN FOLLOW UP TO OUR MEDIA REACTION CABLE (REF) WE
RELATE BELOW BRIEF QUOTES FROM A SAMPLING OF SPANISH
POTENTIAL FIGURES--FROM RIGHT TO LEFT--IN EARLY
REACTION TO THE VICTORY OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER.

-- GONZALO FERNANDEZ DE LA MORA, RIGHTIST, CHIEF OF
UNE (UNION NACIONAL ESPANOLA) AND MEMBER OF ALIANZA
POPULAR: "I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE SPANISH ELECTORATE...
CAN FEEL ITSELF GUIDED BY THE CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATION
IN NORTH AMERICA, NOR DO I BELIEVE THAT NORTH AMERICAN
FOREIGN POLICY WILL CHANGE IN RELATION TO SPAIN. BUT
ON THE WORLD LEVEL, ONE PRESUMES THAT CARTER WOULD BE MORE
ISOLATIONIST THAN FORD."

--MANUEL FRAGA IRIBARNE, LEADER OF THE CONSERVATIVE
ALIANZA POPULAR (AP): THE ELECTION "HAS PRODUCED
RESULTS FAVORABLE FOR THE REST OF THE WESTERN WORLD
AND FOR THE GENERAL STABILITY OF THE WORLD."

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--GABRIEL CISNEROS OF THE CENTRIST GRUPO PARLAMENTARIO

INDEPENDIENTE: "THE TRIUMPH OF CARTER REPRESENTS THE WILL OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO LIQUIDATE CONCLUSIVELY THE NIGHTMARE OF CORRUPTION AND DISTRUST THAT TOOK HOLD OF THE REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION SINCE WATERGATE. I THINK THAT PERHAPS CARTER WAS NOT THE MOST ADEQUATE FIGURE TO...CARRY OUT THAT ACT OF COLLECTIVE CATHARSIS..."

--JOAQUIN GARRIGUES WALKER, DEMOCRATIC PARTY (LIBERAL): "TO MY WAY OF THINKING, THERE WILL BE NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN US POLICY, BECAUSE THE POLITICS OF BOTH PARTIES IN THE US DO NOT HAVE THE SIGNIFICANCE THEY DO IN EUROPEAN DEMOCRACIES, WHERE THE LEFT AND THE RIGHT OFFER POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRAMS OF DISTINCT, COMPOUNDING IDEOLOGY."

-- JOAQUIN RUIZ GIMENEZ, PRESIDENT OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC IZQUIERDA DEMOCRATICA: "ALTHOUGH THE UNITED STATES ELECTIONS ARE A SPECIFIC PROBLEM OF THAT COUNTRY, THEY ARE A QUESTION THAT INTERESTS EVERYBODY...IT IS POSSIBLE THAT CARTER WOULD END AMERICAN SUPPORT TO CERTAIN DICTATORSHIPS AND ELIMINATE FROM THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION VARIOUS PERSONALITIES THAT SUPPORT THIS POLICY."

--ENRIQUE MUGICA, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER FO THE PSOE (LARGEST SOCIALIST GROUP): "THE TRIUMPH OF CARTER SIGNIFIES THE DEFINITE END OF WATERGATE... A PERIOD IN WHICH POLITICAL CORRUPTION AND SPYING AND THE MENACE TO PRESS LIBERTY...COULD HAVE BROUGHT ON AN AMERICAN AUTHORITARIANISM. WITH CARTER ARE RENEWED THE ASPIRATIONS THAT IN THEIR DAY EMBODIED ROOSEVELT AND KENNEDY."

--RAMON TAMAMES, CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCE): "...KISSINGER...AND BRZEZINSKI APPEAR MUCH LIKE ONE ANOTHER. DESPITE THIS, WITH THE DEMOCRATIC VICTORY THERE MAY BE MORE PERCEPTION OF THE EUROPEAN PROBLEMS THAT KISSINGER DOES NOT SEE, SUCH AS EUROCOMMUNISM. BE THAT AS IT MAY, THE ELECTIONS ARE DEPRESSING FOR AMERICAN DEMOCRACY."
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--JAVIER ECHEVAGUSIA, WORKERS PARTY (PTE-COMMUNIST SPLINTER GROUP): "THE ABSENCE OF A CLASS ALTERNATIVE TO THE GREAT CAPITALISTS, REPUBLICANS OR DEMOCRATS, CONVERTS THE ELECTIONS INTO AN OPERATION OF EXCHANGE USEFUL EXCLUSIVELY TO THESE."
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